



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A Summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending November 9, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending November 9, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **NO ACTIVITY** relating to the geographic spread of influenza. Five influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. No specimens tested positive for influenza by PCR at the DHMH Laboratories Administration. One outbreak of respiratory disease was reported. The number of ILI visits to sentinel providers was low, compared to baseline. Overall, influenza activity across the United States remained minimal, but low and moderate levels were reported in some states.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

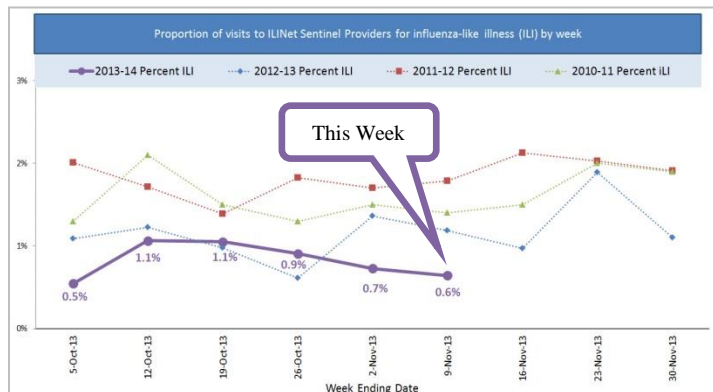
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

✓ No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

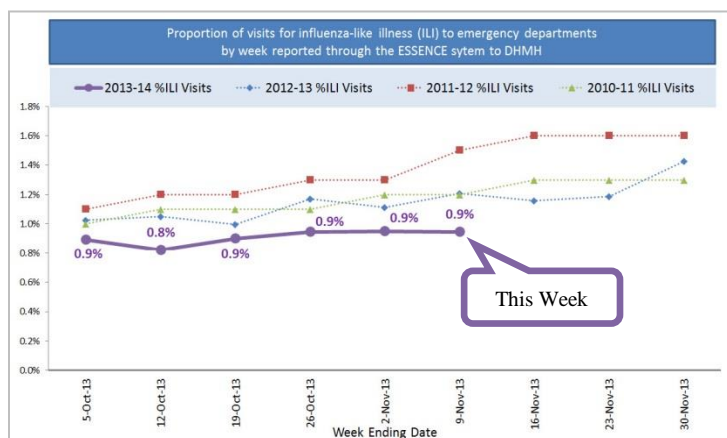
Fourteen sentinel providers reported a total of 9,948 visits last week. Of those, 64 (0.6%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	14 (22%)	19 (23%)	124 (25%)
Age 5-24	26 (41%)	36 (44%)	223 (45%)
Age 25-49	17 (27%)	20 (24%)	114 (23%)
Age 50-64	2 (3%)	6 (7%)	26 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (8%)	1 (1%)	13 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	64 (100%)	82 (100%)	500 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,807 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 414 (0.9%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	142 (34%)	123 (29%)	724 (30%)
Age 5-24	128 (31%)	128 (30%)	751 (31%)
Age 25-49	99 (24%)	114 (27%)	620 (26%)
Age 50-64	28 (7%)	37 (9%)	213 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	17 (4%)	17 (4%)	109 (5%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	414 (100%)	420 (100%)	2420 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

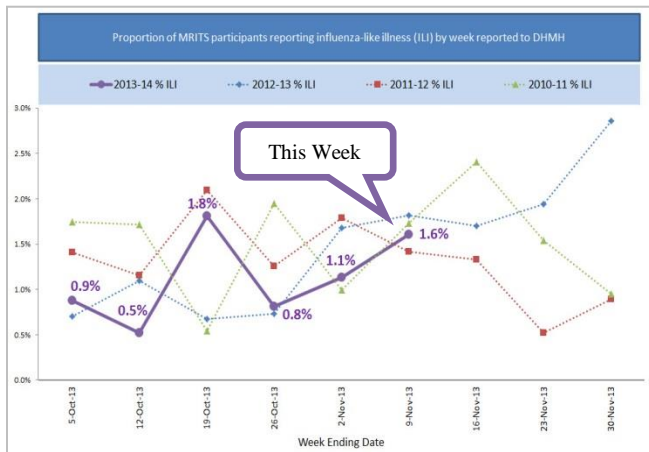
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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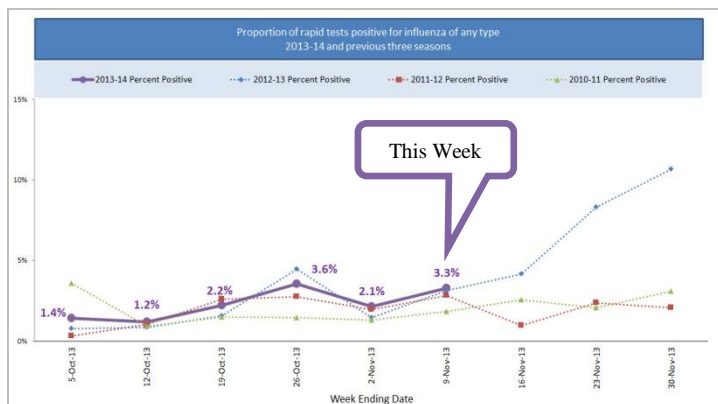
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 622 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 10 (1.6%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 9 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "low" in Maryland.

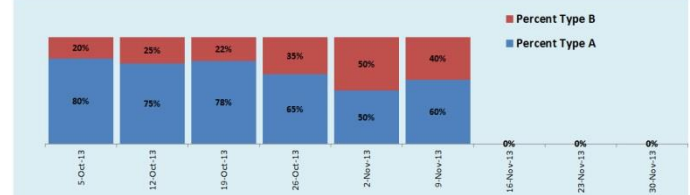


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-four clinical laboratories reported performing 609 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT). Of those, 20 (3.3%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 12 (60%) were influenza type A and 8 (40%) were influenza type B. The [reliability of RIDT](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	12 (60%)	6 (50%)	45 (64%)
Type B	8 (40%)	6 (50%)	25 (36%)
Total	20 (100%)	12 (100%)	70 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 86 PCR tests for influenza. None of the 86 specimens tested positive. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	1 (33%)	3 (60%)
Type A (H3)	--	2 (67%)	2 (40%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	--	--
Total	--	3 (100%)	5 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

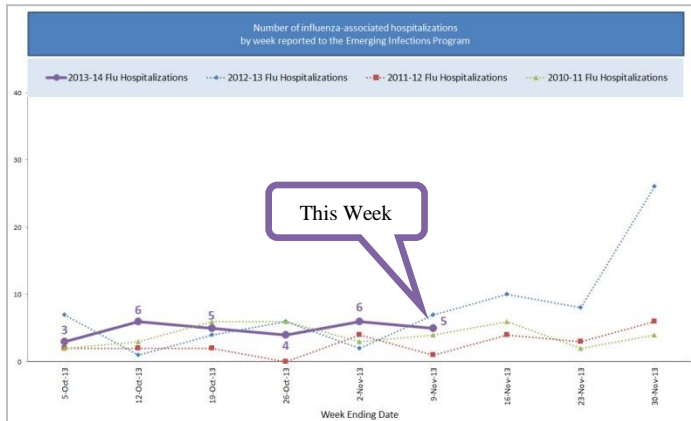
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flumnd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

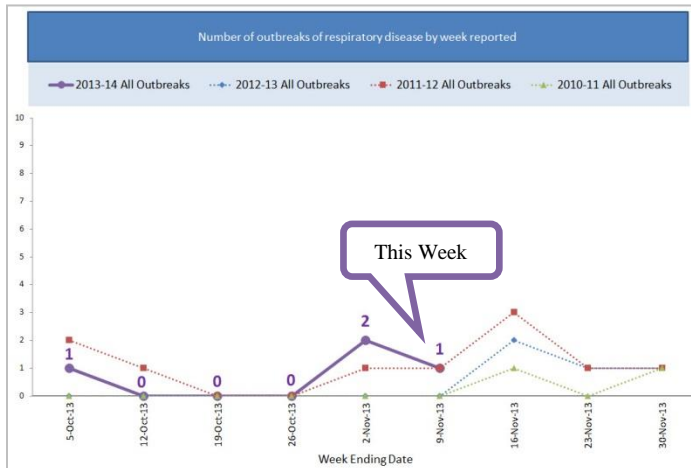
Last week, hospitals in Maryland reported 5 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (20%)	--	4 (14%)
Age 5-17	--	1 (17%)	1 (3%)
Age 18-24	1 (20%)	--	1 (3%)
Age 25-49	1 (20%)	1 (17%)	3 (10%)
Age 50-64	1 (20%)	2 (33%)	8 (28%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (20%)	2 (33%)	12 (41%)
Total	5 (100%)	6 (100%)	29 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of respiratory disease was reported to DHMH last week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	1 (100%)	1 (50%)	2 (50%)
Pneumonia	--	1 (50%)	2 (50%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	2 (100%)	4 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- During week 45 (November 3-9, 2013), influenza activity increased slightly in the United States.
- Viral Surveillance: Of 4,257 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 45, 231 (5.4%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths: Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.6%, below the national baseline of 2.0%. One region reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Two states experienced moderate ILI activity, four states experienced low ILI activity, 44 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza: The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and one state was reported as regional; eight states reported local influenza activity; the District of Columbia, Guam and 35 states reported sporadic influenza activity; six states reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

